

The News of Brooklyn

GAS, POISON AND PISTOL.

A SUNDAY MORNING SUICIDE ON THE PARK SLOPE.

MRS. AUGUSTA SCHWARTZ MADE DELIBERATE ATTEMPTS TO END HER LIFE AND SUCCEEDED ON HER HUSBAND'S BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY.

The Park slope was started yesterday morning, while the bells in the nearby churches were still ringing out the call to early service, by a tragedy which was committed in such a methodical and deliberate way as to attract more than ordinary attention. The victim was the widow of Anton Schwartz, who died suddenly in an uptown New York flat on September 21 of last year. The woman was forty-eight years old.

Since the death of her husband Mrs. Augusta Schwartz had been melancholy and had acted for weeks past in such a manner as to attract the attention of the members of her immediate family, which consisted of three sons and a daughter. Two of these children were by a former wife of Schwartz.

The house at No. 112 Berkeley Place, where the tragedy occurred, is a pretentious four-story structure, and one of the many which Mrs. Schwartz owned in the neighborhood. Mrs. Schwartz retired early Saturday evening. She had been suffering from neuralgia, and Dr. Bennett, of No. 833 President-st., had prescribed for her. At 8 o'clock yesterday morning the report of a pistol sounded through the house, and a son of the woman, who occupied an adjoining room, cried out that his mother had shot herself. Dr. Bennett was hastily summoned, but the woman was dead when he arrived at the house.

It was then learned that Mrs. Schwartz had committed suicide in a most methodical way. A piece of rubber tubing was in her mouth, and the other end was attached to a gas jet. The woman was in a chair. Near by was a small bottle containing laudanum, while on the floor was a green-chambered revolver, with one chamber empty. The bullet had passed through the mouth and entered the brain. Death was probably instantaneous.

Friends of the family were hurriedly summoned, and the police informed of the case. Two letters, one addressed to the Coroner and supposed to contain something relative to the disposition of her body, and the other to her son, were found in the room. These the police took charge of, and later turned over to the Coroner, who will hold an inquest. Yesterday afternoon Mrs. Paula, the married daughter of Mrs. Schwartz, went to the house and saw a hysterical woman, who said she was the servant who had been in the room at the time of the tragedy. "The poor woman," said the informant, "suffered long from nervous prostration and the delay of settling up the estate of her husband. Every thing was progressing nicely. But then Mrs. Schwartz had been denigrated for some time. In fact, she often said that her troubles were more than she could stand. The crime, of course, was not committed in a methodical way. The gas was not turned on fully enough to do any harm in quick time. Then the amount of laudanum taken from the bottle was not enough to cause death. Mrs. Schwartz, seeing this, decided that the only remaining agency through which she could pass out of the world was the pistol. This she used."

The woman then expressed a sentiment of pathos about her self-murder by choosing yesterday for the deed. Fifty-seven years ago yesterday her husband was born. It now seems probable that she had been contemplating the suicide for weeks. She was born in Stuttgart, Germany, and was well known in German charitable circles. Her husband was connected with the Breweries Exchange in Chicago. Max succeeded him in that connection.

Dr. W. H. Bennett, of No. 833 President-st., who had been attending Mrs. Schwartz for some time, was asked to examine the woman's mental condition immediately prior to her death. "I don't think any one can be called correctly insane," said the doctor. "Mrs. Schwartz was suffering considerably with her teeth and neuralgia. I noticed that she was dependent on laudanum for her relief. I believe she was a good woman at heart, and I've heard of her doing many charitable acts. Her tragic death was a great surprise to me and a shock to her friends."

A few weeks before her husband's death she said to an unmarried young man who called to see her about a real estate transaction: "Don't marry for love, marry for money. Love flies out the window over time." She is said to have left a fortune of over \$200,000.

The letters, it was learned last night, were both written in German. The Coroner's report was given out until they were translated. The one to the Coroner makes a number of requests of \$1,000 each to her servants, and requests the settlement of a number of accounts. In it she also says she is in trouble over her husband's estate, and dreads a lawsuit. She requests in the strongest language that no autopsy be made on her body, and that she be cremated. In the letter to her son, Gustave, and Fred simply bade them goodbye.

THE INSTITUTE'S LECTURES.

The schedule of the lectures before the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences for this week is an interesting one. The week was opened by a lecture last night in the Art Institute, by Professor Joseph Royce, of Harvard University, before the second lecture in the course to be given by Professor Royce on "The Power, Wisdom and Goodness of God, as Manifested in His Works."

To-night the lecture at the Y. M. C. A. Building, under the section on Orthology of the Department of Zoology, will be on "Grouse and Quail," by Dr. William E. Johnson. There will also be a lecture under the Department of Mineralogy, by Professor Samuel L. Penfold, of Yale University, on "Hot Springs, Geysers and Their Mineral Deposits."

To-morrow afternoon the fourth lecture in the series on "Words and Words in English," under the Department of Philology, will be delivered in the Y. M. C. A. Building, at 1 o'clock, by Professor Hiram Kellough, of the Polytechnic Institute, on "The English as a Composite Language."

The evening lecture in the Y. M. C. A. Building, at 8 o'clock, under the Department of Astronomy, will be by James F. Hall, secretary of the department, on "The Sun as a Planet." The lecture will be illustrated by lantern photographs.

On Thursday the only lecture scheduled is under the Department of Political Science, and is the last in the series on "Political, Social and Literary Japan." The address will be by the Rev. Dr. William Elliot Griffith, of Association Hall, at Bond and Fulton sts., at 8 o'clock.

For Friday three lectures are scheduled. Under the Department of Pedagogy, Percival Chubb, of the Manual Training High School, will lecture on "The Art School Associations of Great Britain." Under the Department of Political Science, Professor Harris J. Ryan, of Cornell University, will lecture on "Properties of Electricity." Under the Department of Literature, at 8 o'clock, the lecture will be illustrated by lantern photographs. In Association Hall, at Bond and Fulton sts., at 8 o'clock.

The fifth lecture in the course on "Recent Researches into Experimental Mental Phenomena," under the Department of Psychology and Pedagogy, will be delivered by Professor William James, of Harvard University, on Saturday morning, in the Y. M. C. A. Building, at 10 o'clock. The subject of the lecture will be "Degeneration."

FUNERAL OF MRS. SARAH WOLF.

The funeral of Mrs. Sarah Wolf, wife of Gustave Wolf, of No. 183 Waverly-ave., who died on Friday, was held yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Mrs. Wolf was prominently connected with several Hebrew charitable organizations, including the Ladies' Hebrew Zion and the Ladies' Sewing Society of the Hebrew Orphan Asylum. Surviving members of these organizations and the Independent Order of the Free Sons of Israel, the Independent Order of Bnai B'rith, and the Order of the Royal Ark, attended the funeral.

TAMMANY WOULD RULE.

A BROOKLYN VOTER'S VIEW OF THE RESULTS OF CONSOLIDATION.

POLITICS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE QUESTION—RESUBMISSION DEMANDED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: There are those who affect to assume that politics ought not to play any part in the question of consolidating Brooklyn and New York.

It is a political one in consequences. With Brooklyn Republicans it cannot be otherwise, for to them it presents the gravest of all political evils, viz.: shall they be placed helplessly under the coarse, brutal and foul rule of Tammany? So the question of consolidation, as far as Brooklyn Republicans are concerned, is and must be a political one of the most serious import. They perceive that, merged with New York City, Brooklyn will be at the mercy of the local corrupt gang which can rely upon Tammany to restore it to local control because of the overwhelming majority of Tammany in the consolidated city. The local organ of the "ring" advocates consolidation, while the other local journals oppose it. Though the majority will be relied upon Manhattan Island, it, by electing Mayors and a majority of the Board of Aldermen, will effectively dominate over the consolidated city, and "the dog will be the tail." Under existing conditions the corruptions of Tammany are confined in effect to New York City; but with consolidation Brooklyn also will be involved. The corruption of New York City in New York City will keep Tammany in power. Once in power while there will be, as there has been, a transitory break. Such occasional breaks have been mere episodic interruptions of power and infamy.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

If any one doubts this, let him recall the history of Tammany since 1850. In a period of forty-five years, over Tammany have been the ephemeral triumphs of Know-Nothingism, Mozart Hall, a Citizens' party, County Democracy and several other combinations of odds and ends with neither head nor tail. Yet Tammany survived and came out of each struggle stronger than ever. Tammany covers with a splendidly confounding all who do covers with the conditions of its being, the sources whence flow its power. In the very face of stringent times and the frightful exposures before the Lexow Committee, Tammany in 1894 polled 109,000 votes. Then beaten by a majority of 50,000, it triumphed last November with a majority of 200,000—though as vile, rotten and infamous as ever. Recalling the past, perceiving the present, one may judge of the future.

Consolidation brings me to the point. In 1894 we Republicans in Kings County, desirous of victory, dared not take ground on the question of consolidation. Resolutions introduced into the County Committee were stifled by the motion to lay on the table. Our ward committees and district associations maintained a profound silence. The election of 1896 was different. With two exceptions every candidate, irrespective of party or his previous attitude respecting consolidation, pronounced himself in favor of resubmission.

CANDIDATES TOOK A FIRM STAND.

Party managers had discovered that many once favoring consolidation had repented; that many indifferent the year before were alarmed by the narrow escape from consolidation by the last Legislature, and that to challenge the growing hostility to consolidation would be to make defeat certain for any candidate taking ground against resubmission. Mr. Crook, the candidate of the regular Democracy for Mayor, and a prominent advocate of consolidation, felt obliged to commit himself to resubmission. To the practical mind the action of candidates counselled by their party leaders tells the growth, depth and passion of the abhorrence to consolidation with its necessary corollary—Tammany Hall rule extended over Brooklyn. Yet this is not all.

In the third place, the candidates of the two parties, the Republican and the Democratic, in three instances, resolutions demanding resubmission were adopted with scarcely any opposition. Before this, the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, the Citizens' Party, the County Democracy and a member of the Greater New York Committee, the candidates of the two parties, the Republican and the Democratic, in three instances, resolutions demanding resubmission were adopted with scarcely any opposition.

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HORSES TO THE FRONT.

THE RIDING AND DRIVING CLUB TO HAVE A FINE SHOW.

WELL-KNOWN PRIZE-WINNERS TO BE AT THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION—SOME FEATURES TO BE INTRODUCED.

Several unusually attractive features will be presented by the Riding and Driving Club of Brooklyn at its annual horse show this year, which will open on May 4. The entry list will not be opened for several weeks, but it is already known that the exhibit will surpass its predecessors in many respects. Frank D. Beard has decided to show his famous string of ten or a dozen horses, which will be entered in nearly every one of the various classes.

It was learned yesterday that neither anthem nor sermon were the bone of contention, but consecration. Mr. Martin is a stickler for consecration. It is to him the water of life. Without it all would be lost. The choir over which he presided consisted of twenty-four members. Sixteen of these number are members of the Memorial Baptist Church, and are, therefore, consecrated. The other eight are non-members of the Memorial Baptist Church, but are members of other churches, and hence their services were dispensed with. Whether they are members of any other church or not could not be learned. At any rate, there were whispering and disorder in the choir. Time and again Mr. Martin insisted that his choir must conform to his own standards, and one day one of the members told him that the members of other churches had a good time, and asked why could not they be treated as well as the others were. The result of all this grave lack of spirituality was an edict from the choir master that the choir must be reorganized.

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CONSECRATION WAS NECESSARY.

THE TROUBLE IN THE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH WAS BETWEEN THE CHOIR AND ITS LEADER.

As reported in yesterday morning's Tribune, the members of the choir of the Memorial Baptist Church